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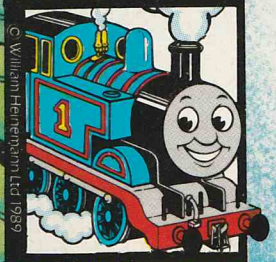

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27th May 1989
No 42 40p

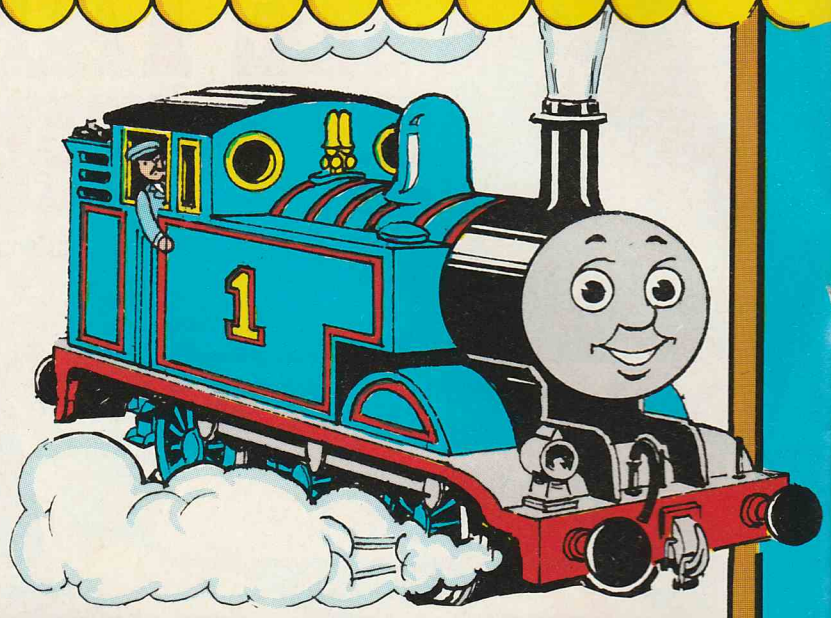
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

COMPETITION INSIDE!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! An important visitor is about to arrive on the Island of Sodor. So all of the engines are on their best behaviour in the hope that they may be chosen to take the important visitor around the island. Who do you think will be chosen? Find out in the story which begins on the next page. Peep! Peep!



EVERY ISSUE!

Take out a subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** and every issue will be sent straight to your home for a year! You will also receive a very splendid **Thomas Pack** and become an automatic member of the **Thomas Club** too! Turn to page 7 for more details.

SPECIAL WELCOME!

Would you like to have your name printed on this very page? Well, starting in our next issue, the Fat Controller will be saying a special 'Hello' to those who write in requesting a mention. If you are a member please state your number. Send your request to: *The Fat Controller's Welcome Spot, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

SUPER COMPETITION!

Here's your chance to win a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends *Video, Watch and Play Colouring Set.* Just turn to page 13 for further details.

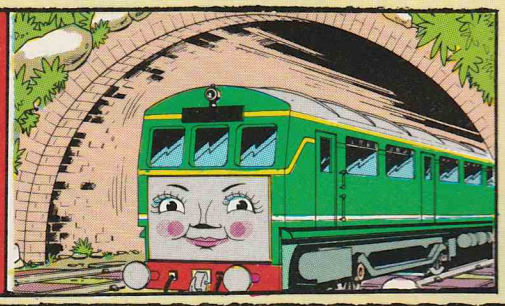
ANOTHER WAY!

If you'd like to join Thomas's Club without taking out a subscription here's another way. Just collect 3 tokens like the one below. Send one red, one yellow and one green one, together with a stamped, addressed envelope, to: *Thomas's Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

You will receive your own little black and white membership card plus number!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

In our next issue: A new tunnel is being built, so everyone must work hard!



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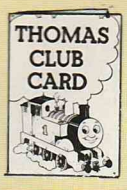

THOMAS TOKEN

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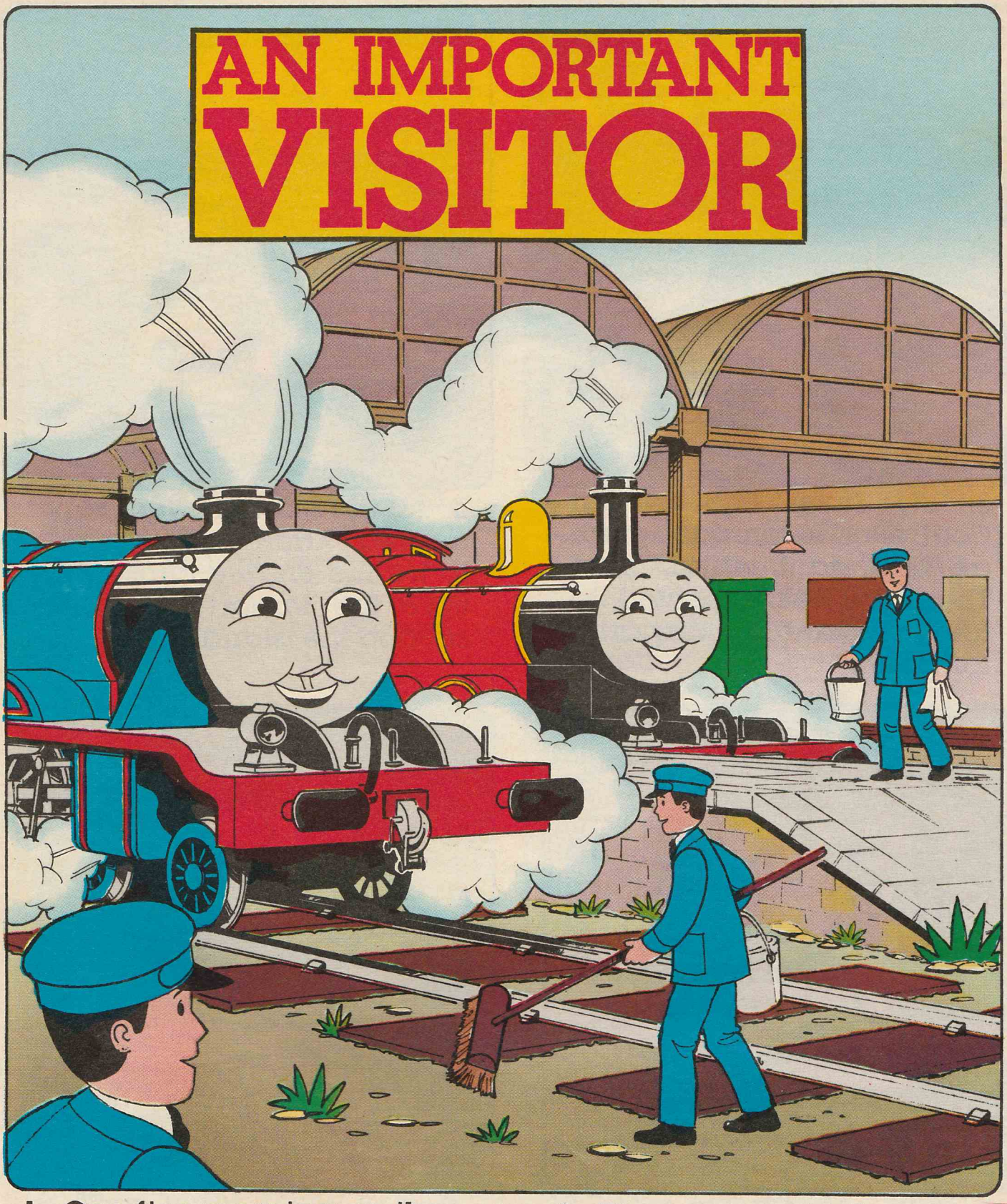
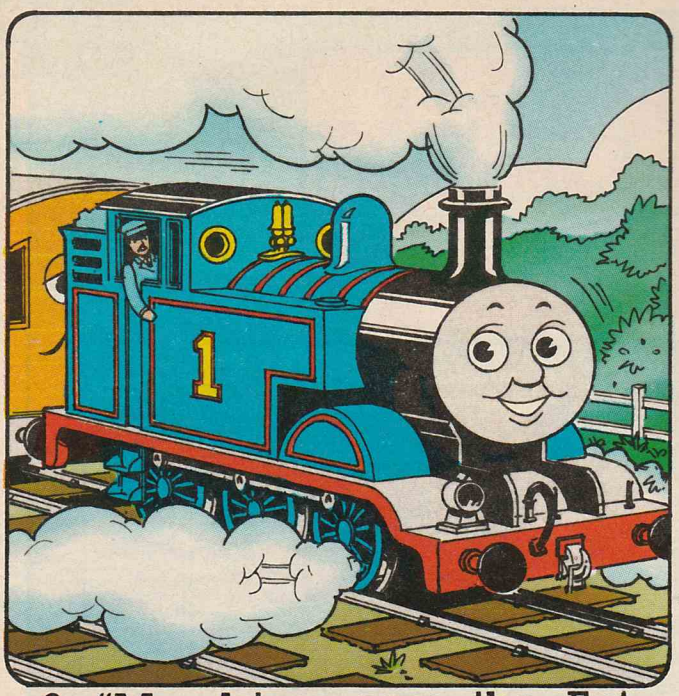
ABC

AN IMPORTANT VISITOR

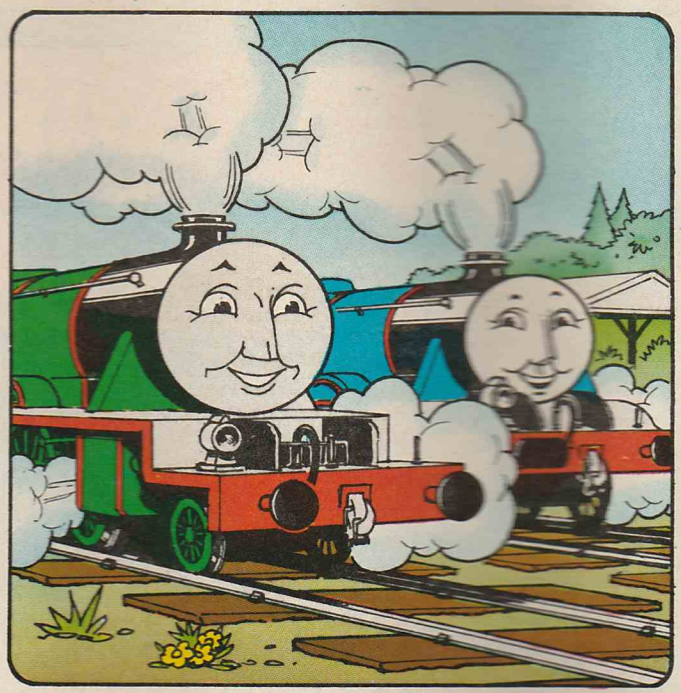


1. One fine morning on the Island of Sodor, the Fat Controller was having the big station cleaned up. Men were working hard, sweeping and scrubbing.

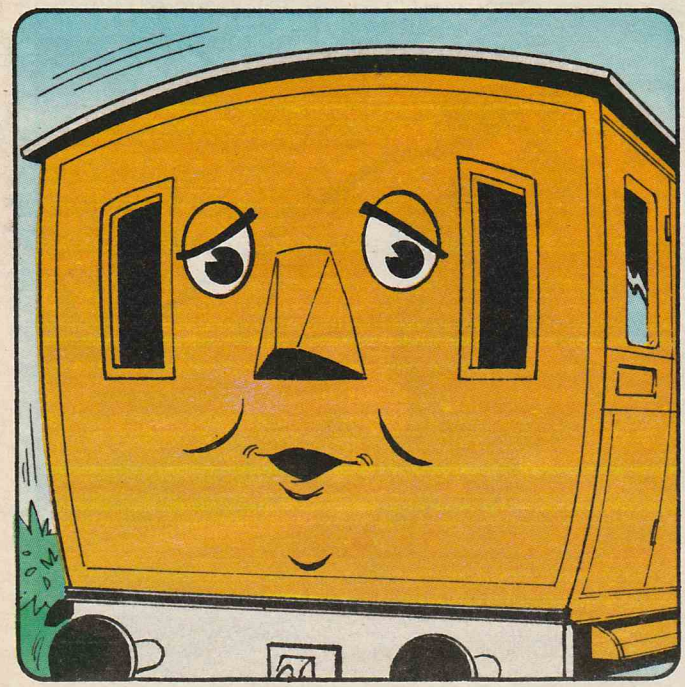
2. The engines in the yard were very curious. "I wonder what it's all for," said James. "I don't know," said Gordon. 'I wish I did." They watched the men work.



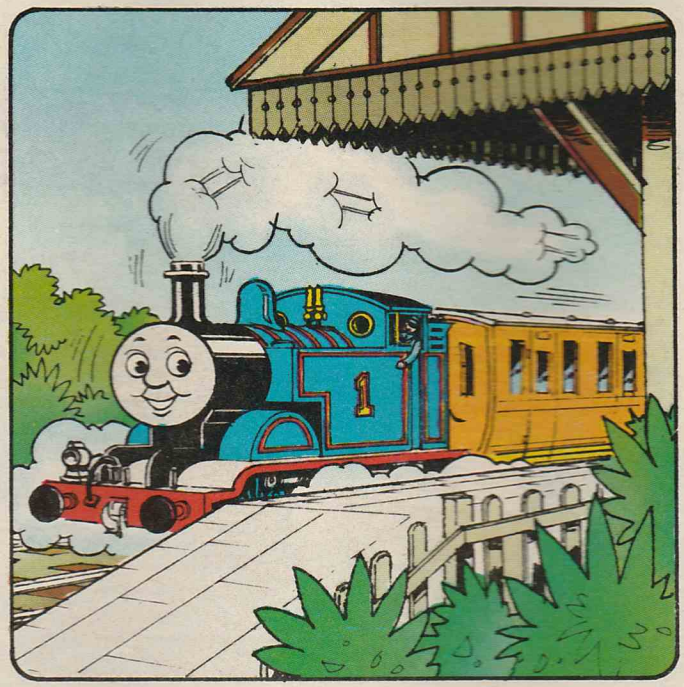
3. "My driver says the Fat Controller is preparing for an important visitor," said Thomas. "He's expected to tour the island the day after tomorrow."



4. All the engines were very excited. Each one wanted to be the engine chosen to take the important visitor around the island.

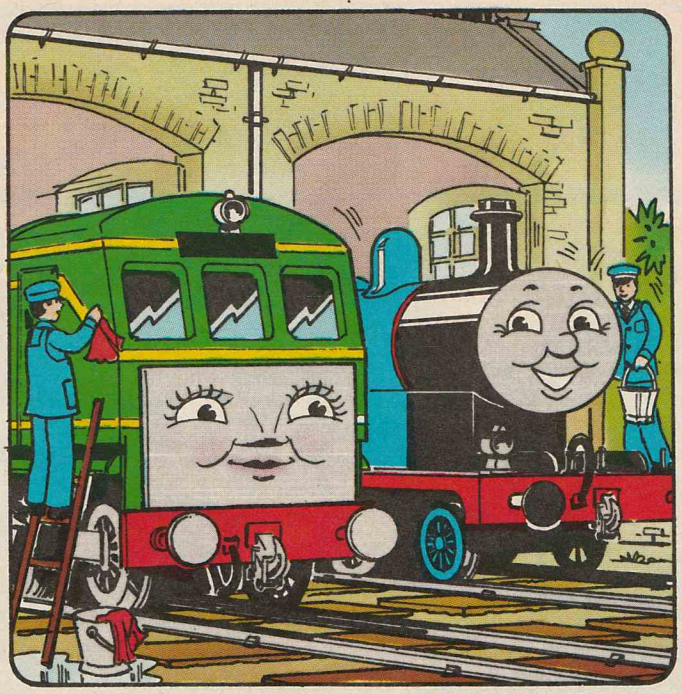


5. "I do hope it will be me who is chosen," said Thomas as he puffed along on his branch line. "So do we!" sang his coaches, Annie and Clarabel.



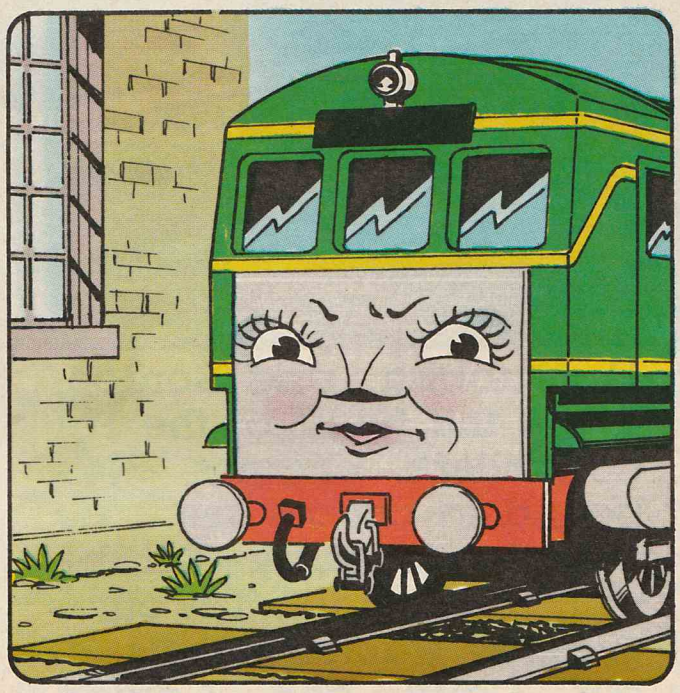
6. Thomas passed by Edward at his station. "Hullo," said Thomas. "How are you, Edward? Have you heard about the important visitor to the island?"

7. "Oh yes," said Edward. "My driver gave me an extra polish this morning so that I would look my very best. I hope I am allowed out today."



8. All the engines said the same thing. Their drivers were cleaning, painting and polishing them all, in the hope that they would be chosen.

9. That night there was a commotion in the shed. The engines were arguing over which one would be the best choice. "I am the smartest," said Henry.



10. "The smartest? Huh!" shouted Daisy. "The Fat Controller won't want to take you out! He'll want to impress the visitor with a **modern** engine like me."

11. "Rubbish," said Gordon. "I am the finest of the Fat Controller's engines. He's bound to choose me." "He won't," said Daisy. "Oh, he will," said Gordon. The other engines wanted to sleep, but Daisy and Gordon wouldn't stop. "I'm **bigger**," boasted Gordon. "Who cares?" said Daisy. "I am right up to date!"

12. The next morning both engines spoke to the Fat Controller. "Can I take the visitor, sir?" asked Daisy. "I'm afraid not," said the Fat Controller. "Please, sir. Can it be me?" asked Gordon. "I'm sorry," said the Fat Controller, "but neither of you will take the visitor anywhere. He's touring the island by helicopter!"

Helicopter? The story continues on page 17!

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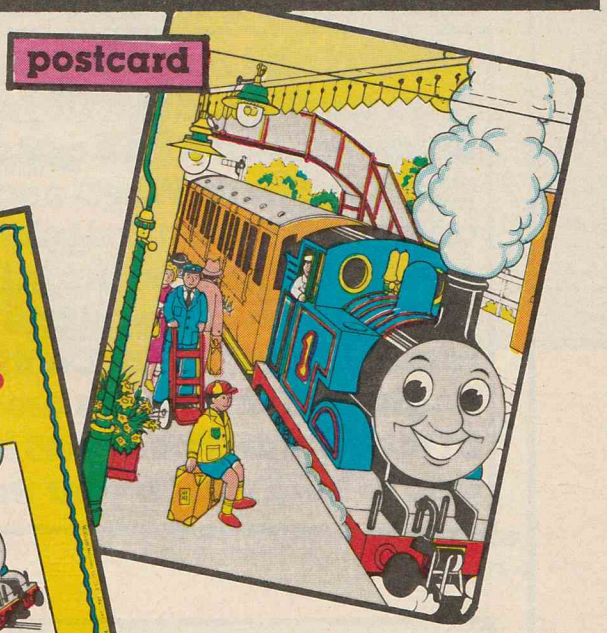

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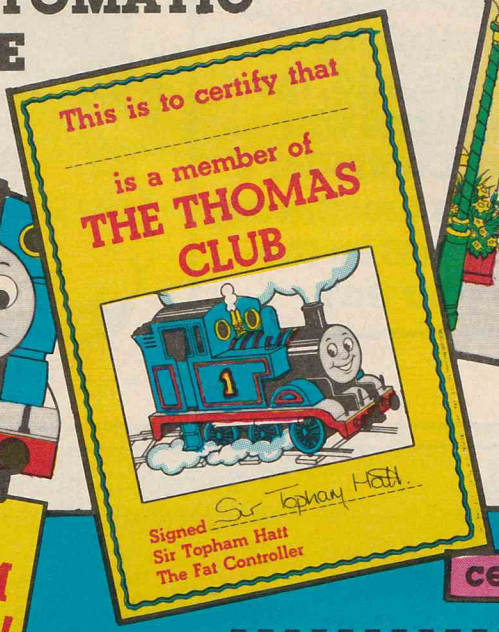

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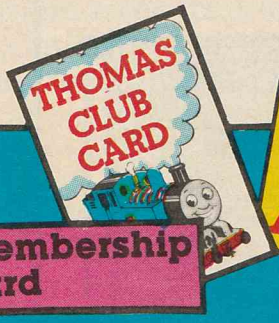

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It costs just **£9.75** to be sent every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine** for a year – and this includes postage and packing. You will also receive our very special subscriber's **pack** (above). Just fill in the form and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for £9.75 to: *Thomas Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AB.*

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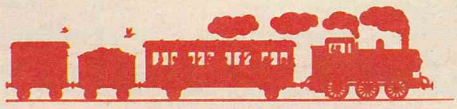
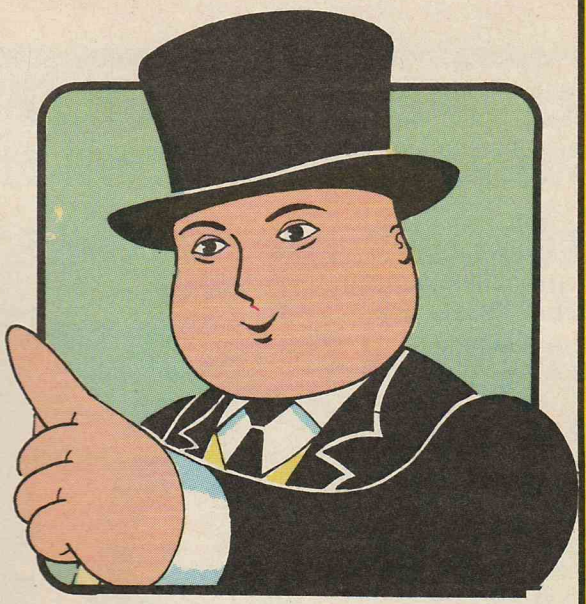


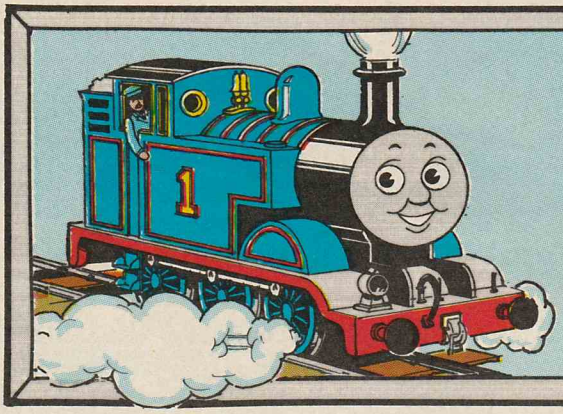
Please make your cheque or postal order payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.

See Thomas, Percy and James's GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACKS for details of a **£1 DISCOUNT OFFER!** In the shops now!

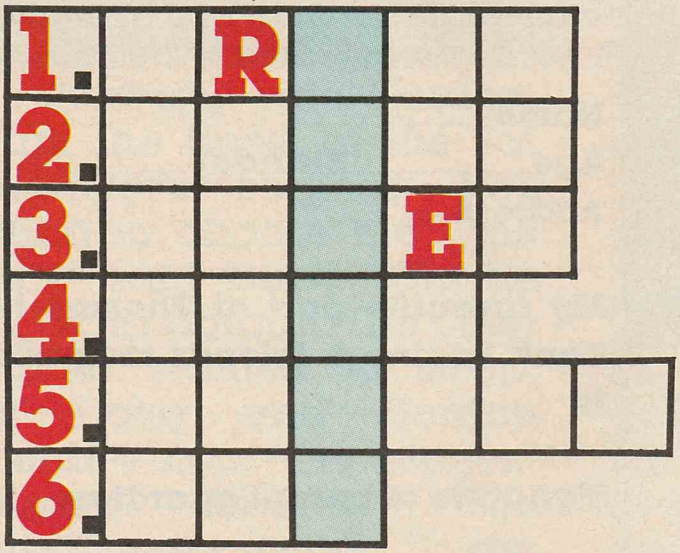
PUZZLE TIME

Thomas and the Fat Controller have a splendid puzzle for you. Below you will find 6 questions and 6 answers. When each answer has been put into its correct position on the grid, the blue section of the puzzle will reveal one of the Fat Controller's engines. Some letters are already in their correct positions on the grid to help you on your way.





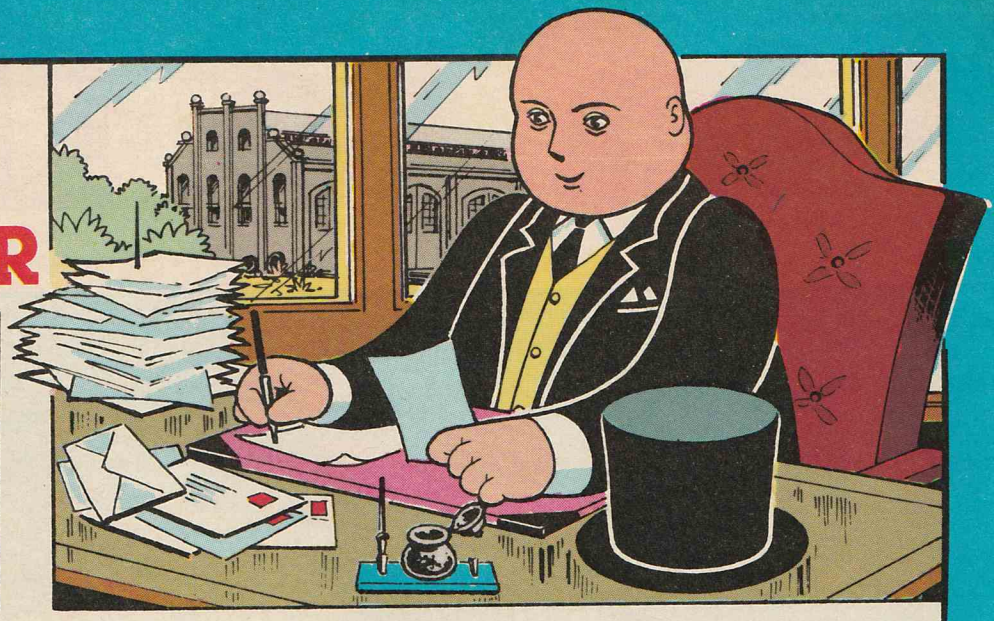
1. Percy is this colour.
2. All the engines live on the Island of . . . . .
3. When the engines are stoked up with coal, they are at full . . . . .
4. Toby is a . . . . engine.
5. He is the most powerful of all the engines.
6. James is this colour.



GREEN
GORDON
SODOR
POWER
TRAM
RED

Answer: Edward.

Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER

Dear Fat Controller,
I have recently been to hospital for an operation. When I got home, my Thomas the Tank Engine comic had arrived and my Grandma read me it all before I went to sleep.
Love, **Kye Charlesworth,** aged 4.

You do sound like a brave young fellow. Everyone here on the Island of Sodor sends you their best wishes for a very speedy recovery.

Kye wins a set of Thomas vinyl stickers, from Scorpio Products International Ltd.

BEING GOOD!

Dear Fat Controller,
Are your engines and trucks being well behaved? Please tell Diesel to turn over a new leaf and be good for a change.

Lots of Love, **Ross Miles,** aged 5.

At the moment all of my engines and trucks are being very good indeed. But it must be said that Diesel needs a lot more attention than the others.

GOOD OLD THOMAS!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have now been reading about Thomas for 17 years, and I still think he is great. I also have a Thomas the Tank Engine quilt cover.
Love from **Simon**, aged 19.

That is splendid. I do hope that your next 17 years of reading Thomas stories will be just as fullfilling. By the way, my wife and I also have a Thomas the Tank Engine quilt cover.

SNOOKER SURPRISE!

Dear Fat Controller,
On my mummy and daddy's anniversary I was given a big snooker table. Now when someone comes to my house, I drag them upstairs to play snooker. Do you like playing snooker?
Love from **Graham Lonley,** aged 4.

Indeed I do.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Rupert Webber (0118), Katy Charlotte Ellison (24405), David Hoyes (17339), Finlay Duff (15084), Barry Graves, James Mickley (9462), Danny Banks, Lucy Ann Aubrey, Louise Paddock (0245), Benjamin Pye, Andrew Luck, Andrew Stokes (2352), Matthew Hibbs, William Jones, Sonja Kingston, Myles Donaldson (08763), Joe Stephen (25184), Jamie Mitchell, Aidan Phillips (9209), Joseph Thomas (20597), Samuel Thomas (20811), Gennard Ruocco (10592), Daniel Hewitt, David Wilson, Thomas Stancliffe, Gary Cook, Richard Keenan (5469), Lee Webber, Jack Buchanan (14957), David Woodall and Jonathan Cocker (22895).

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot **promise** to print all the birthdays we receive, but we will do our best.

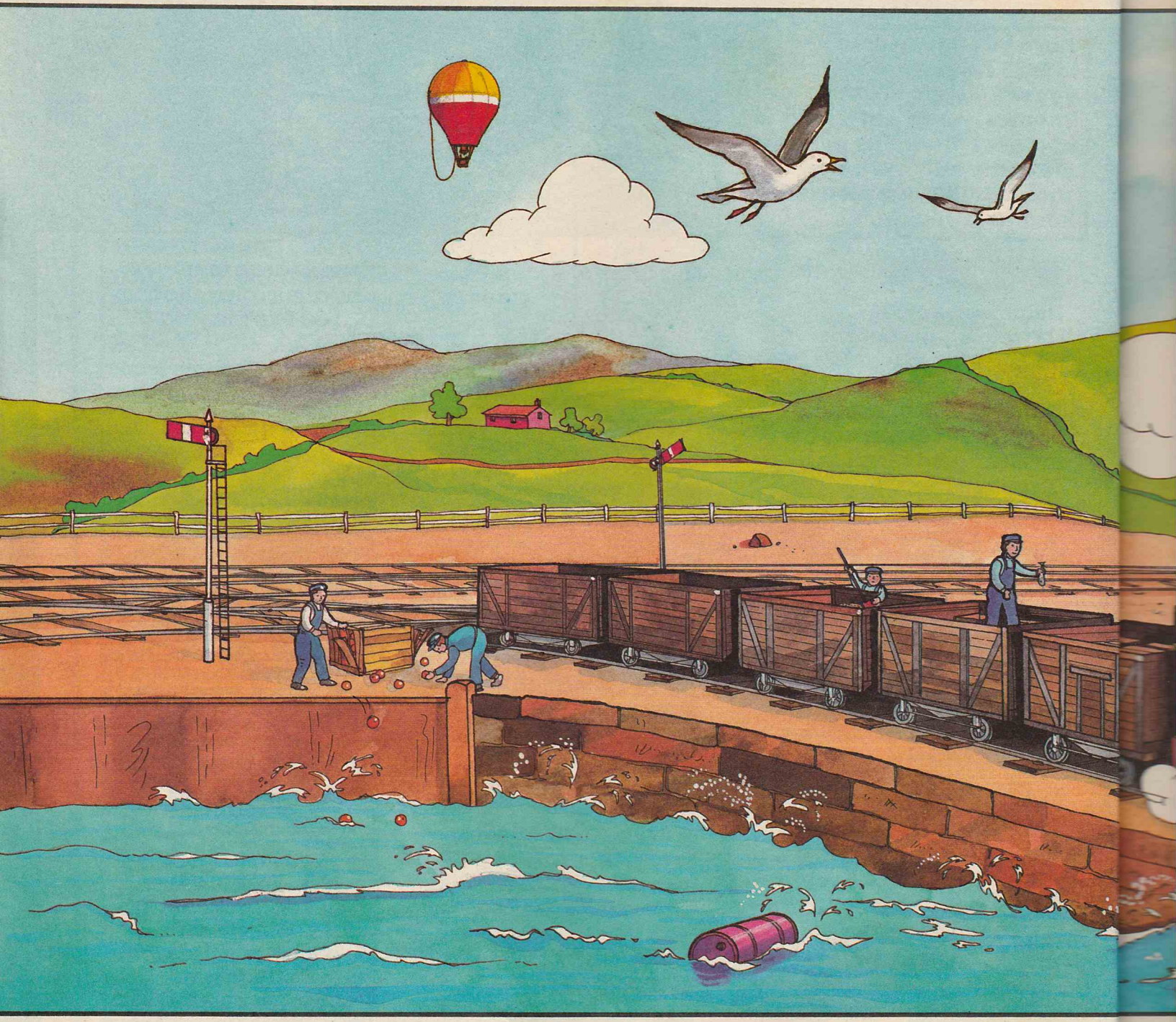
Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

On to the qu



Which engine can you see?

What would happen if he moved forwards?

How many seagulls are flying?

What else can you see in the sky?

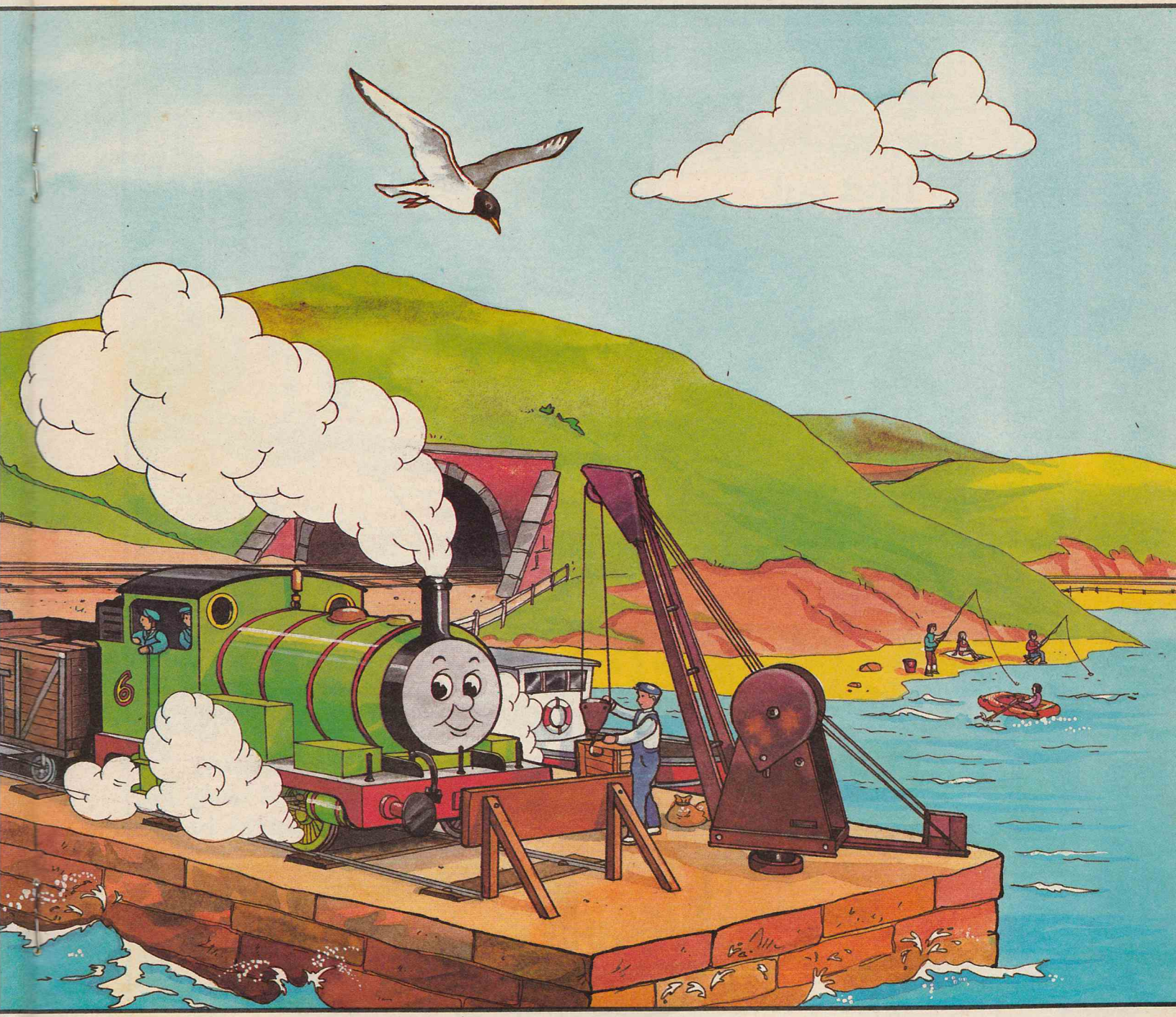
What is floatng i

Point to the li bel

What are thenen

How many trcks

uay!



ıting in the sea?

lifebelt!

e men on the beach doing?

rucks are there?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, detach this centrespread and cut along the dotted lines. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next: Behind the lighthouse!

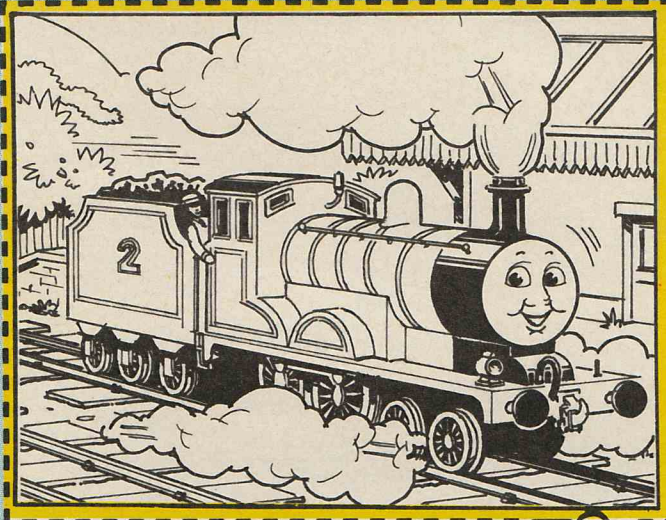
JOIN THE DOTS!

Oh, dear! What has happened here? Join the dots to find out.

COMPETITION

FABULOUS PRIZES TO BE WON!

How would you like to win one of these splendid prizes? We have 25 Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends *Watch and Play Video Packs* to be won. Each pack consists of a video and drawing book, plus a set of 4 felt tip pens. It's sure to give hours of fun!



How to Enter:

Colour in the picture opposite as carefully as you can and then fill in the form in your best handwriting. Cut out the section along the dotted lines and send your entry to:
Thomas's Colouring Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

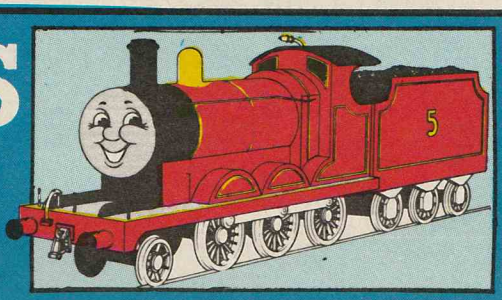
ALL ENTRIES MUST REACH US BY 9TH JUNE 1989

Name .....
Address .....
.....
.....Age.....
My favourite engine is .....

Rules: No employee of Marvel Comics Ltd, Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd or Video Collection International Ltd may enter this competition. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

JAMES'S JAPES

Thank you for sending us all your funny jokes. Here are a few of James's favourites!



Where do fish keep their savings?
In the river bank.
Tony Howard.

Why did the orange stop at the top of the hill?
Because he ran out of juice.
Alan Bennett.

How do you catch a squirrel?
Climb up a tree and act like a nut.
David Williams.

What has six legs but cannot walk?
Three pairs of trousers.
Adam Ingot.

Where do cows go for a night out?
To the moovies.
Michael Sullivan.

Why can't two elephants go swimming at the same time?
Because they only have one pair of trunks.
Paul Atkins.

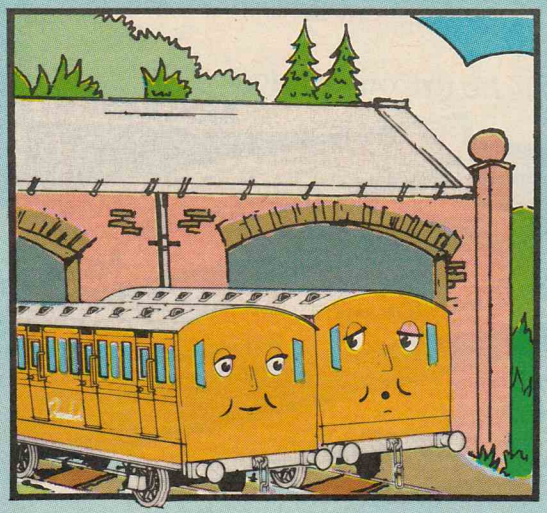
What animals need oiling?
Mice – because they squeak.
Terry Wyatt.

A read-aloud story!

Clarabel's New Friend

Thomas has two coaches, Annie and Clarabel. Usually the coaches are the best of friends. But like all friends they sometimes fall out.

"I am a special coach," said Clarabel one day. "I can carry passengers, luggage and the guard." She sniggered at Annie. "You can only carry passengers, Annie. You must feel useless."



"At least I don't **rattle**," said Annie crossly.

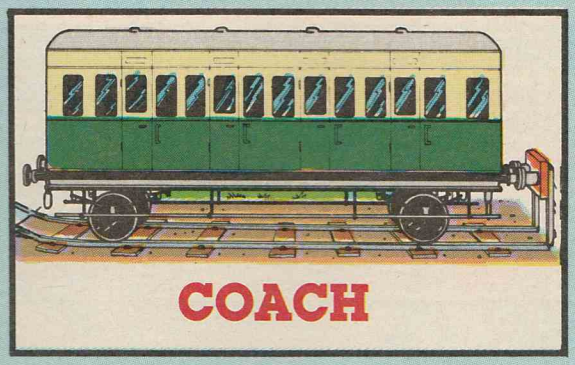
Clarabel snorted at this. "I don't rattle. And my wheels don't squeak, unlike some coaches I could mention."

This argument carried on all day.

The coaches decided they didn't want to be friends any longer. So when Annie was taken to the maintenance shed for repairs to her buffers, Clarabel was happy.

"Now I shall get a new coach to be friends with," she said.

The coach was brand new. It did not like being coupled to Clarabel.



COACH

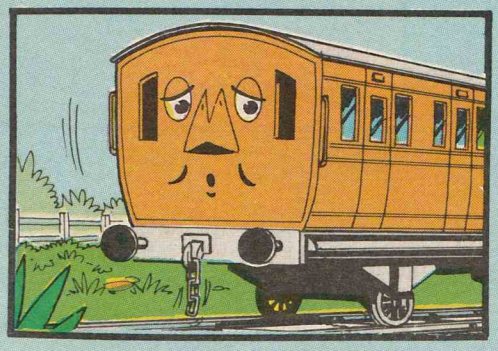
"Don't you ever get washed?" It sneered. "Just don't bump into me. You might scratch my new paint."

"Cheek!" thought Clarabel huffily. But she decided to try hard to be friends with the new coach. "Perhaps she'll feel better if I sing as we're pulled along," she thought.

Clarabel began to sing. "We're travelling along, singing a song, tra-la-la-la-lay!"

"Stop that terrible noise," cried the new coach immediately. "You sound like a cracked engine whistle."

The new coach complained all day. "I can carry more passengers than you. You're a lazy, **smelly** old coach."



"Oh dear," sighed Clarabel. "I wish Annie were back. I miss her warm, happy voice."

Clarabel was pleased to see Annie waiting for her back at the station.

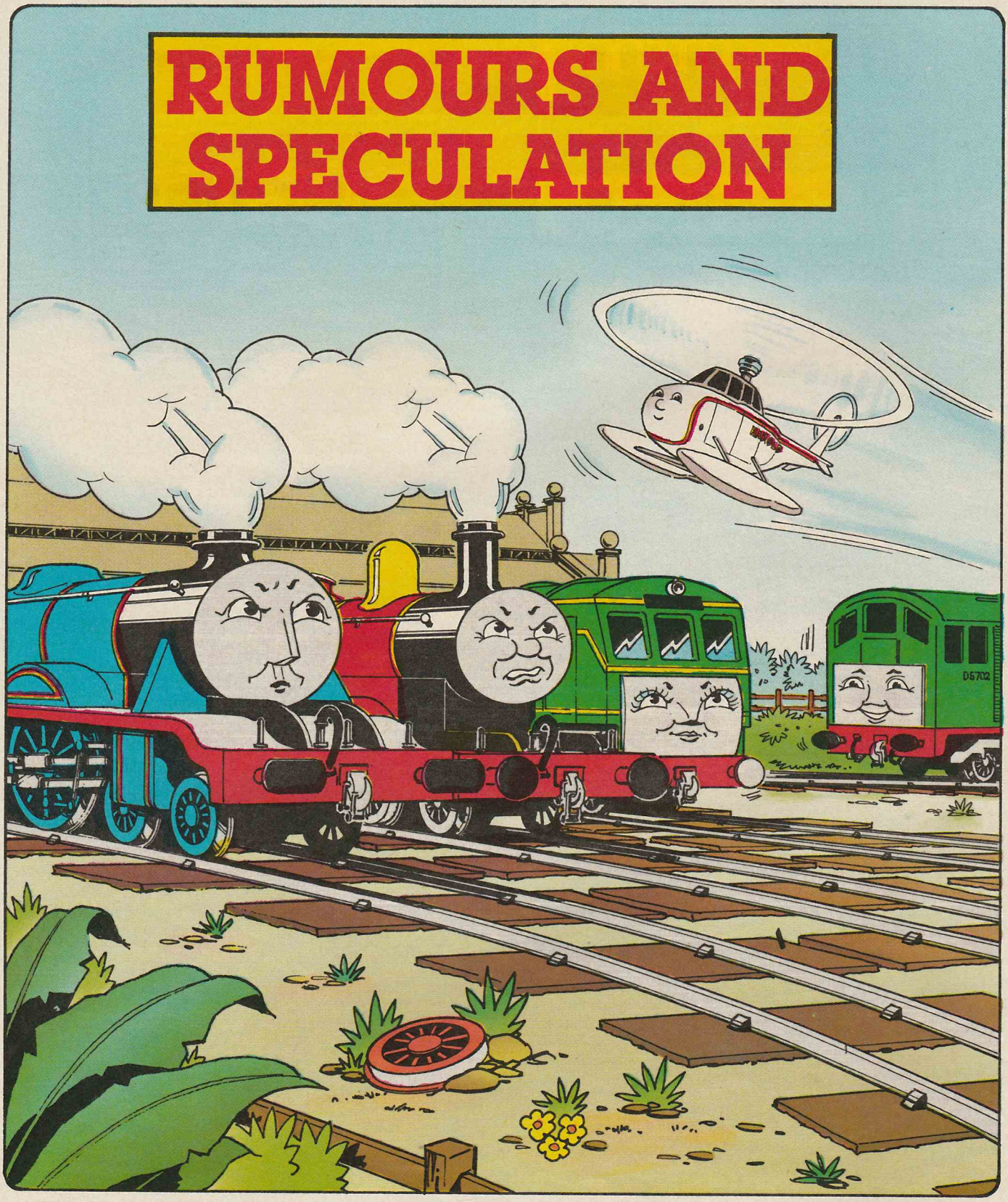
"I've missed you, Clarabel," Annie said.

"And I've missed you, Annie," said Clarabel, as Annie was coupled behind her. "Let's stop arguing. We'll remain best friends forever."

And the two coaches sang to show how happy they were as they chuckled along behind Thomas.

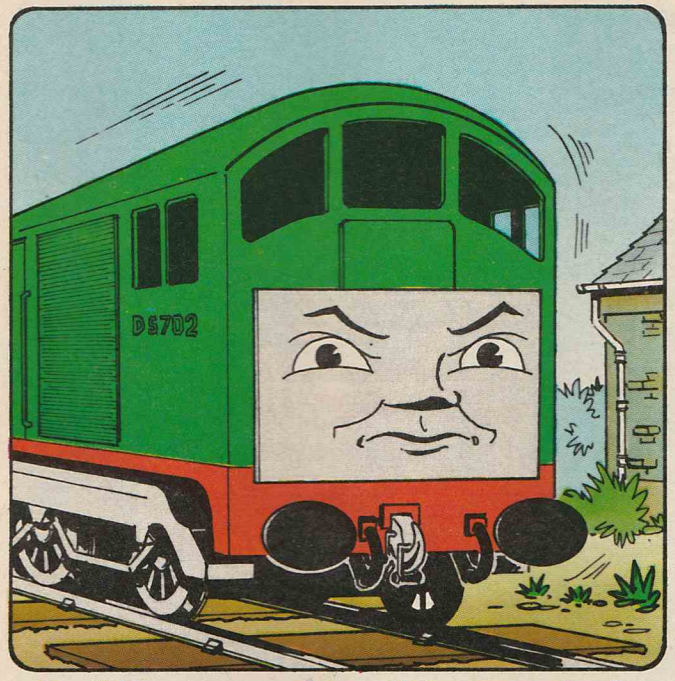
THE END

RUMOURS AND SPECULATION

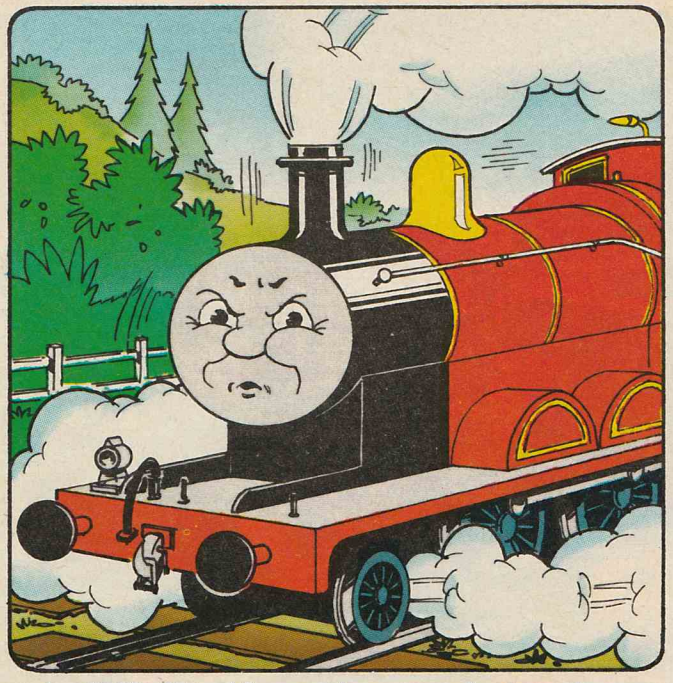


1. An important visitor had come to the Island of Sodor. The Fat Controller took him out one day in Harold the Helicopter. The engines became very suspicious!

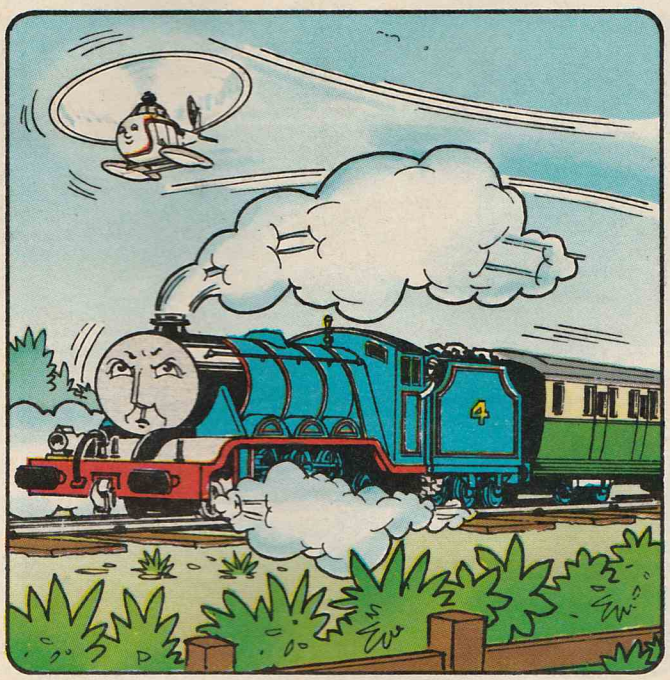
2. "Imagine our very own Fat Controller taking a visitor around in a helicopter!" exclaimed James. "I know," fumed Gordon. "Why it's . . . it's . . . disgraceful!"



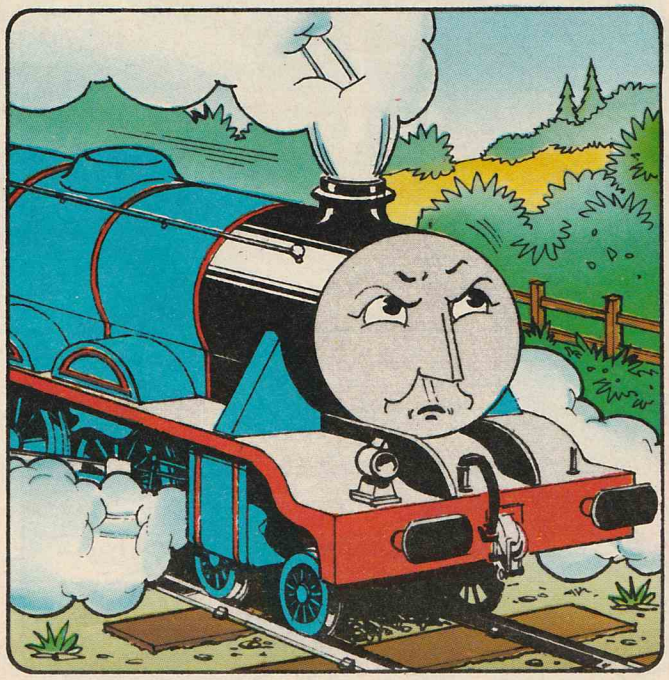
3. "It's an insult," snorted Daisy. "Important people should travel by rail!" "I wonder what he's up to," said Boco. "There must be a reason behind it."



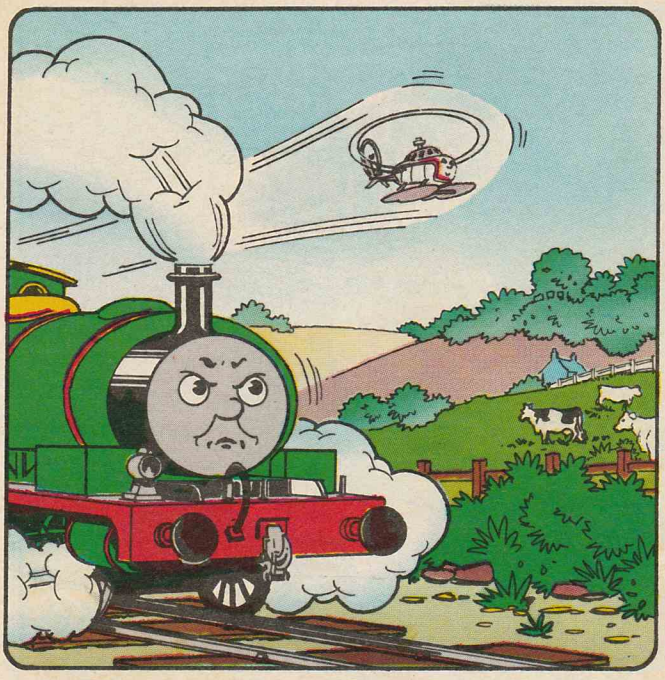
4. "Well, if we're not to be told, then we'll just have to find out for ourselves," puffed James. The engines hurried off to set about their day's work.



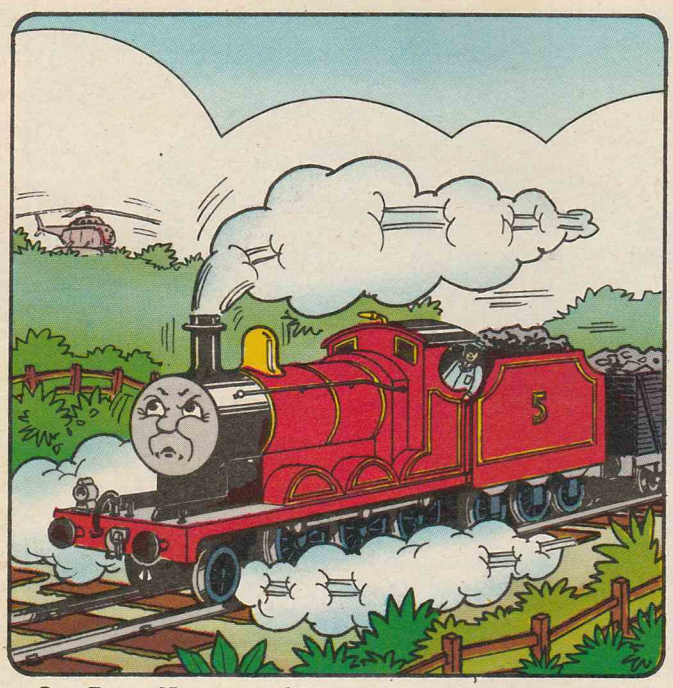
5. As Gordon was pulling the express along, he noticed Harold flying overhead. "I know what that important visitor is up to," thought Gordon. "I'll show him."



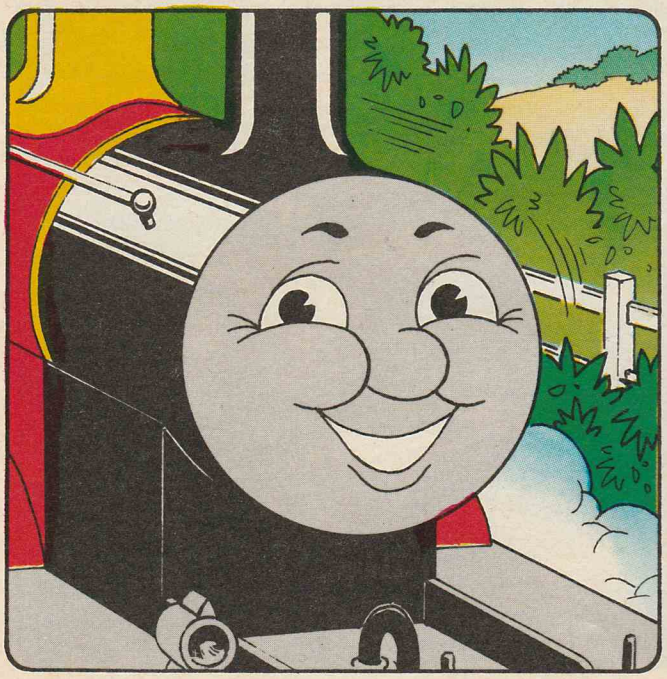
6. Gordon's driver put on speed. He puffed to himself, "Come to see how fast we are? Well, how's this for speed?" But when he looked up, Harold was gone!



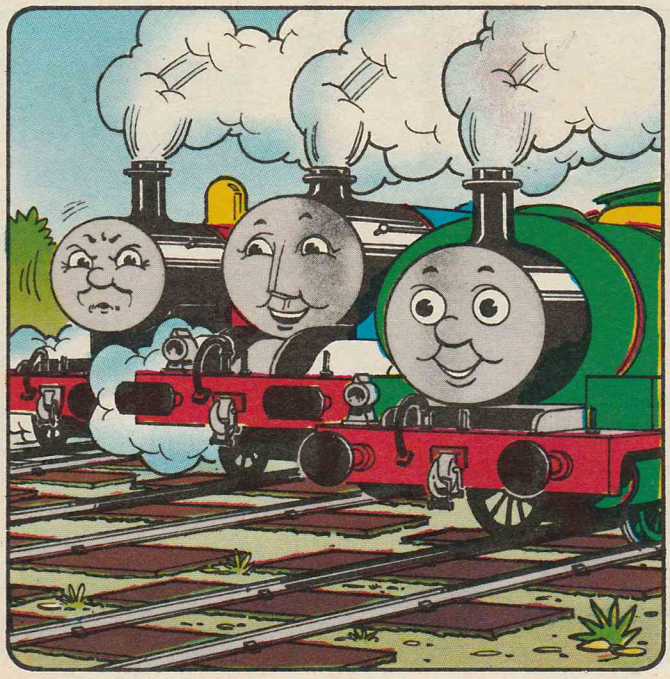
7. Percy saw Harold flying over the farms between the main line and the big hill. "I know what that important visitor is up to," thought Percy. "He's counting cows!"



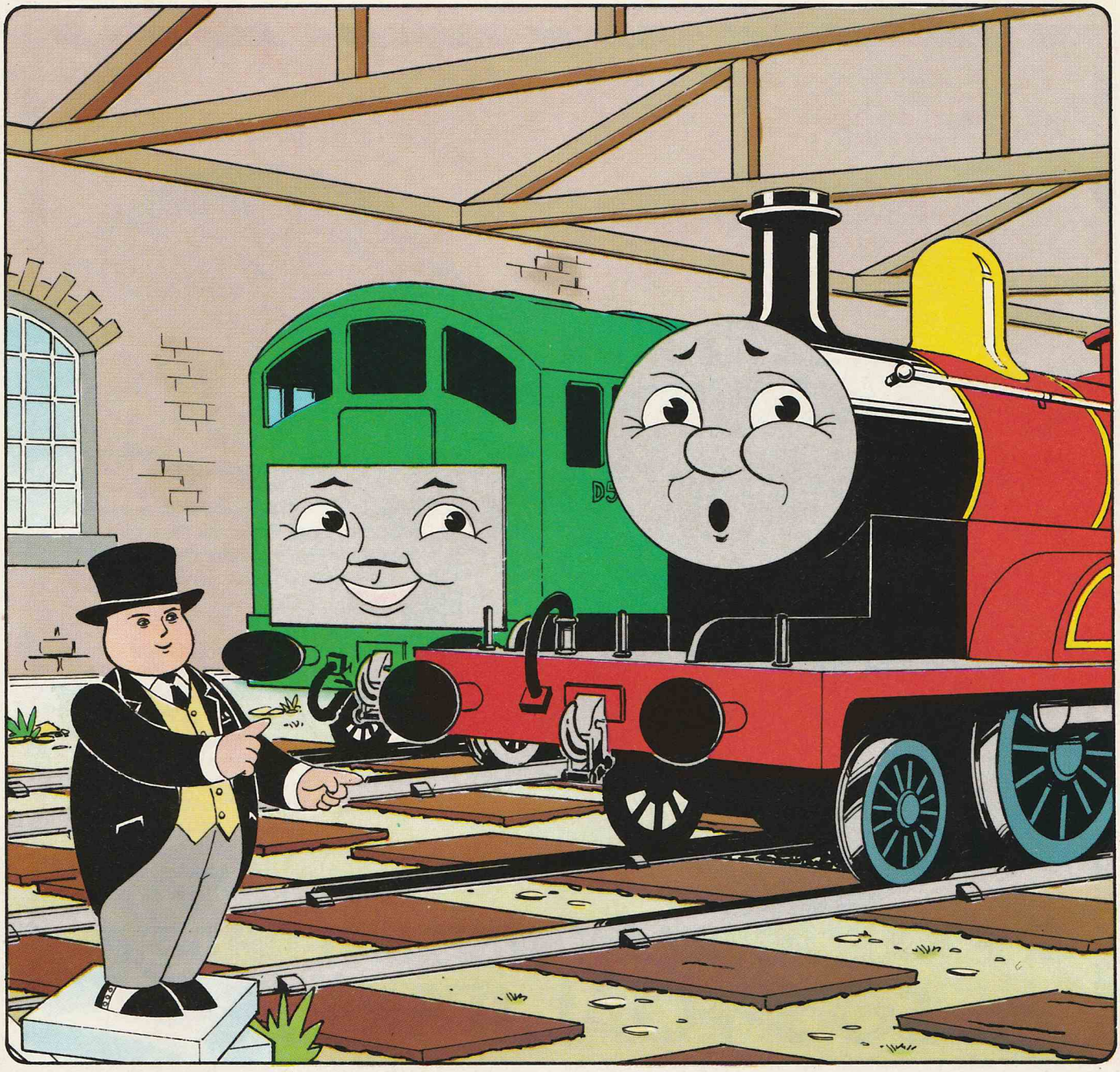
8. In the afternoon, James was pulling trucks along the branch line, when he saw Harold on top of the big hill. "Aha!" said James. "I might have known."



9. "A mountain climber!" announced James, in the shed that evening. "That's what he is!" "Who?" asked Percy. "The important visitor, of course!" said James.



10. "What rubbish!" said Percy. "I saw him counting cows! Why would a mountain climber be counting cows?" "He's a speed inspector!" interrupted Gordon.



11. Every engine had his own opinion as to what the Fat Controller's visitor was up to. The clamour of shouting engines filled the shed. "This is no more than ***rumours*** and ***speculation***!" cried Boco, trying to calm them down. But it was no use. It wasn't until the Fat Controller came in, that the engines finally became quiet.

12. "What is all this racket about?" he asked. "Please, sir," said Percy. "But would you kindly tell us who your visitor might be?" "Oh, Mr. Walsh? He's come to plan the new tunnel," said the Fat Controller. "A new tunnel!" said James. "I might have known!" "All *you* knew, James," said Boco, "Was rumours and speculation!"

More fun on the line in our next issue!

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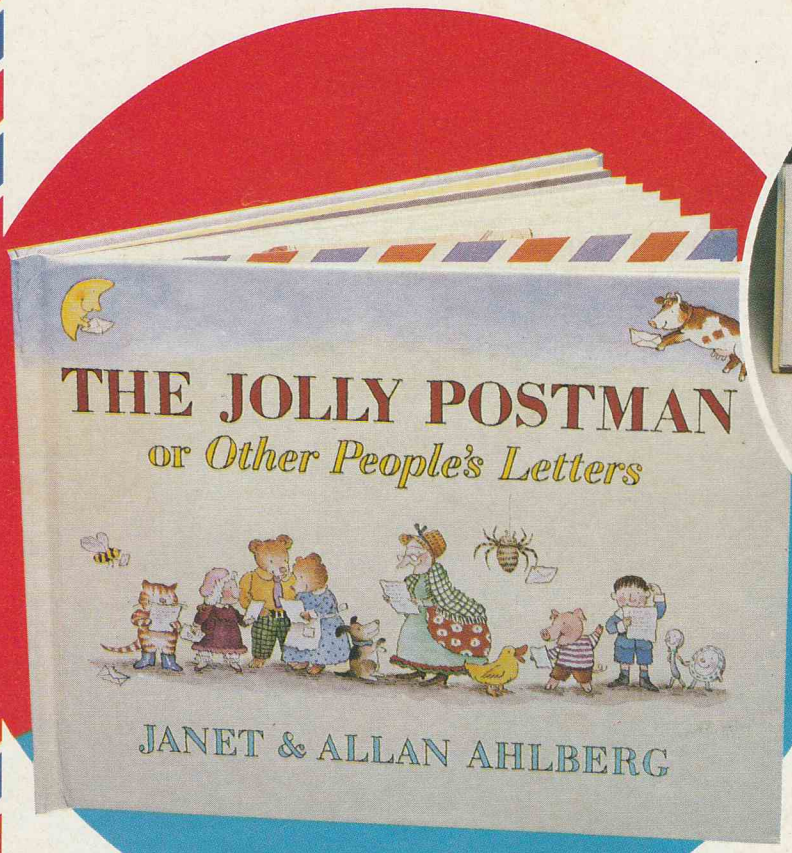

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